human development to meet future challenges. To fulfill its constitutional responsibility for maintaining the standards in higher education, necessary regulations, directions and circulars are issued by the Central Government/ UGC from time to time.

A major thrust is being given to improve the quality of education and research in the institutions of higher learnings, as also to increase access with equity.

Implementation of ICDS

1999. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued directions to the State Governments to speed up implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that UNICEF has expressed concern over the persistent neglect of this project;

(d) whether Government have brought any additional socio-economically disadvantaged regions in the ambit of this project; and

(e) if so, the details of the additional areas which have been brought within the fold of this project in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The directions issued to the State Governments to speed up and effectively implement the ICDS Scheme, *inter alia,* include:-

* to operationalise all sanctioned Projects and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs);
* to fill up the posts of ICDS functionaries;
* to ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
* to make available medicine and pre-school kits in all AWCs;
* to ensure registration of all eligible beneficiaries in AWCs;
* to set up and hold regular meeting of Coordination Committee at State, District and block level for effective convergence of health, nutrition and education services under various programmes.

(c) UNICEF has not expressed any such concern.

(d) Government has sanctioned 456 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh AWCs recently. Instructions have been issued to all States that villages predominantly inhabited by population belonging to SC/ST and minority community should be given priority in location of AWCs.

(e) 3279 additional Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned for Orissa. Location of Anganwadi Centres has to be decided by the State Government.

National Commission for Children

2000. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking for setting up of a National Commission for Children on the lines of National Commission for Women;

(b) if so, the areas that are going to be covered by the proposed Commission;

(c) the measures his Ministry is taking for setting up of similar Commissions in all States;

(d) whether any consultations with the States have been held in this respect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 2nd May, 2005 which proposes to set up a National Commission at national level and the State Commissions at State level.

(b) The Commissions would deal with all issues pertaining to children.

(c) The Bill provides that the State Governments may constitute the State Commissions in their respective States.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Most of the State Governments have agreed to the proposal.

Issue of Certificate by CBSE

2001. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT to pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who appeared for the 12th standard examination conducted by the CBSE in 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise;